

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 098417

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SOPN, ORTA, TU

SUBJECT: VISIT OF TURKISH BUSINESSMEN TO WASHINGTON

REF: ANKARA 2928

1. DELEGATION REPRESENTING TURKISH INDUSTRIALISTS AND
BUSINESSMEN'S ASSOCIATION DURING WASHINGTON VISIT APRIL 25-
29 MET WITH VICE PRESIDENT MONDALE AND NATIONAL SECURITY
ADVISOR BRZEZINSKI AT WHITE HOUSE APRIL 29, CLARK CLIFFORD
AT HIS LAW OFFICE APRIL 28, COUNSELOR NIMETZ AT DEPARTMENT
APRIL 27, AND 65 SENATORS AND CONGRESSMEN AS WELL AS WITH
MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES. MISSION LEFT WASHINGTON DISAPPOINTED
THAT THE US-TURKEY DEFENSE COOPERATION AGREEMENT (DCA) WAS
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NOT BEING PRESSED BY ADMINISTRATION AT THIS TIME BUT SATIS-
FIED THEY HAD RECEIVED GOOD HEARING. BASED ON
CONGRESSIONAL SOUNDINGS, THEY CLAIMED TO BE CONVINCED THAT
DCA COULD NOW BE APPROVED BY CONGRESS. THIS ASSESSMENT WAS
CHALLENGED BY CLIFFORD AND OTHERS WHO SAID MUCH BROADER
CONSENSUS WAS NEEDED BEFORE DCA COULD BE APPROVED. GROUP
OBJECTED TO WHAT THEY UNDERSTOOD TO BE NEED FOR TURKISH

MOVEMENT ON CYPRUS,CONTENDING THAT RESTORATION OF US-TURKISH RELATIONSHIP WOULD HELP LEAD TO RESOLUTION OF CYPRUS PROBLEM BY PARTIES CONCERNED.

2. VICE PRESIDENT WAS PRESENT FOR FIRST FIVE MINUTES OF APRIL 29 WHITE HOUSE MEETING TO WELCOME DELEGATION. VICE PRESIDENT STRESSED ADMINISTRATION'S DESIRE FOR GOOD RELATIONS WITH TURKEY AS WELL AS OTHER COUNTRIES OF AREA AND OUR HOPE THAT DIFFERENCES OVER CYPRUS AND AEGEAN CAN BE RESOLVED. AS EARNEST OF INTEREST IN EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN, VICE PRESIDENT NOTED VERY EARLY IN ADMINISTRATION PRESIDENT HAD SENT CLARK CLIFFORD TO VISIT LEADERS IN AREA TO LEARN HOW U.S. MIGHT ENCOURAGE RESOLUTION OF DISPUTES THAT PLAGUED REGION. AT LONDON NEXT MONTH PRESIDENT WOULD ESTABLISH PERSONAL RELATIONSHIPS WITH TURKISH AND GREEK PRIME MINISTERS. VICE PRESIDENT SAID THAT IN OUR VIEW, THERE HAD TO BE GIVE ON BOTH SIDES SINCE IN ABSENCE OF FORTHCOMING ATTITUDE PROBLEMS COULD BE EXACERBATED AND SOLUTIONS MADE MORE DIFFICULT. IN RESPONSE, FEYYAZ BERKER (ON BEHALF OF GROUP) EXPRESSED CONCERN ABOUT APPARENT INTENTION TO LINK US-TURKEY DEFENSE RELATIONSHIP WITH QUESTION OF CYPRUS, A LINKAGE WHICH MIGHT HELP SOLVE CYPRUS QUESTION BUT WOULD NOT IMPROVE US-TURKEY RELATIONS.

3. IN SUBSEQUENT DISCUSSION, DR. BRZEZINSKI STRESSED
A) U.S. INTEREST IN STABILITY OF THIS STRATEGIC AREA,
B) OUR HOPE FOR IMPROVEMENT OF RELATIONS WITH TWO MAJOR ALLIES, AND C) OUR DESIRE TO BE HELPFUL BY CONTINUING OFFER GOOD OFFICES WITH REGARD CYPRUS AND AEGEAN. BRZEZINSKI
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POINTED OUT THAT ADMINISTRATION WAS FOLLOWING BALANCED APPROACH; WE HAD RECOMMENDED INCREASE FROM DOLS 125 TO 175 MILLION IN LEVEL OF SECURITY ASSISTANCE FOR TURKEY, A STEP FOR WHICH ADMINISTRATION HAD BEEN CRITICIZED. BRZEZINSKI EXPRESSED VIEW THAT TURKEY WAS IN POSITION OF STRENGTH WITH REGARD CYPRUS AND COULD AFFORD TAKE INITIATIVE TO REACH SOLUTION. HE POINTED OUT THAT U.S. ARMS RESTRICTIONS WERE NOT SOURCE OF CYPRUS PROBLEM OR ITS PERPETRATION. IF WAY COULD BE FOUND DEFINE CYPRUS SOLUTION OR SEQUENCE OF STEPS TOWARD THAT OBJECTIVE IT WOULD BE MUCH EASIER TO MOVE AHEAD.

4. IN ALL CONTACTS, GROUP ARGUED THAT FAILURE TO RESTORE A SOUND TURKEY-US RELATIONSHIP COULD RESULT IN CHANGE IN TURKEY'S WESTWARD ORIENTATION. THEY REITERATED IMPORTANCE OF TURKEY'S ALLIANCE WITH U.S. AND STRESSED VALUE THEY ATTACHED TO NATO, BUT ARGUED THAT CONGRESSIONAL APPROVAL OF DCA WAS KEY NEXT STEP.

5. BRZEZINSKI ALSO SUGGESTED THAT MEETINGS BETWEEN GROUPS OF TURKISH AND GREEK BUSINESSMEN MIGHT HELP BRING ABOUT RETURN TO ATATURK-VENIZELOS TYPE OF UNDERSTANDING AND MUTUAL DEVELOPMENT.

6. SIMILAR GROUND WAS COVERED IN TWO AND ONE-HALF HOUR MEETING WITH CLIFFORD AND SESSION WITH NIMETZ AT DEPARTMENT AT WHICH DEPUTY SECRETARY CHRISTOPHER PRESENT FOR PART OF MEETING.
CHRISTOPHER

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